



Environmental Volunteers

Innovative environmental science education that improves student learning

Dear Teacher,

This document is designed to help you select the EV learning stations, or kits, that will best support the science education you are planning in your classroom. Please review this document in preparation for your conversation with our Lead EV who will be organizing your service.

Class Size and Kit Selection

If you have 24 or fewer students you will have 3 learning stations. If you have 25 to 32 students you will have 4 stations. This allows us to keep the group sizes small (8 or fewer).

Kit Packages

If you are unfamiliar with our learning stations, we have put together a few suggested combinations. These are just suggestions. You are absolutely welcome to create your own combinations.

Package 1: Adaptations to Habitats

Introduction: Ana Banana, or Acorn Woodpecker (Pick 1)

Stations: Foothills Banner, Bird Study Skins, Focused on Trees

+1 Station if needed: Gopher Meets Mole, Tracks, or Camouflage (Pick 1)

Package 2: Adaptations to Survival

Introduction: California Condor

Stations: Owl Pellets, Skulls, Tracks

+1 Station if needed: Foothills Banner, Gopher Meets Mole, or Camouflage (Pick 1)

Package 3: Species Exploration

Introduction: Dusky Footed Wood Rat

Stations: Bird Study Skins, Focused on Trees, Gopher Meets Mole with Small Mammals.

+1 Station if needed: Tracks

Package 4: Food Chains and Relationships

Introduction: Ana Banana, Oak Tree Story, or Food Web Finger Puppets (Pick 1-note some of these can also be done as a station)

Stations: Oak Tree Story, Oak Tree Banner, Foothills Banner, Worm Habitats (Pick 3-note one of these could be an introduction).

+1 Station if needed: Owl Pellets (Pick 1)

ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS LEARNING ACTIVITY MATRIX FOR FOREST AND FOOTHILLS ECOLOGY

Title	Grades	Description
ACORN WOODPECKER	1-3	Introduce the Acorn Woodpecker and its unique adaptations for use of its environment.
ANA BANANA	1-3	Students meet Ana the Banana Slug and learn about her role as a decomposer in the forest.
BIRD STUDY SKINS	1-6	Familiarize students with common foothill birds. Introduce bird life styles.
CALIFORNIA CONDOR	2-5	Introduce an endangered species and the complex problems of protecting it and its environment.
DUSKY WOOD RAT	1-3	Meet Dusky the Wood Rat and all of the other animals that visit his nest.
FOCUSED ON TREES A	1-3	To increase understanding about trees and their importance to the environment
FOCUSED ON TREES B	4-6	To increase understanding about trees and their importance to the environment
FOODWEB FINGER PUPPETS	1-3	Construct a food web using yarn and finger puppets to teach about food chains and webs.
FOOTHILL BANNER A	1-2	Examining wet and dry environments and the local plants and animals that are found in them
FOOTHILL BANNER B	2-4	Identification of habitats and the inhabitants of the local chaparral, riparian, grassland, and woodlands ecosystems
FOOTHILL BANNER C	4-6	Study of how the inhabitants of the local chaparral, riparian, grassland, and woodlands ecosystems form food webs inside their ecosystems.
GOPHER MEETS MOLE	1-3	In a chance meeting in their tunnels, Mole and Gopher each learn about the other and how they live underground. Often done with the kit Small Mammals.
OAK TREE BANNER	1-3	Construct food chains using the Oak Tree Banner and Finger Puppets to teach about food chains and how plants and animals need the sun, earth, air and water to survive.
OAK TREE STORY	3-6	Introduce the diversity of life around an oak tree, and demonstrate the interrelationship of living and non-living things.
OWL PELLETS	3-6	Students will identify and compare bones found in dissected owl pellets to understand an owl's relationship within its food web.
SKULLS	2-6	Identify herbivores, carnivores and omnivores from their skulls
SMALL MAMMALS	1-6	Familiarize students with common foothill mammals. Introduce mammal life styles.
TRACKS (CASTS)	1-3	Identify and classify various woodland animals' footprints using playdough. Casts in playdough create more realistic tracks, but students do not take home a worksheet.
TRACKS (STAMPS)	1-3	Identify and classify various woodland animals' footprints using rubber stamps. Stamps are less realistic, but students have a worksheet they can take home.
WORM HABITATS	2-6	Create a vermicomposting (composting with worms) model

APPROPRIATE MULTI-PURPOSE LEARNING ACTIVITIES.

The EV has several learning activities that are applicable to many of our subject areas. The following is a list of the kit(s) you may want to use with Forest and Foothills Ecology.

CAMOUFLAGE	K-2	Students play a variety of games that show how camouflage can help an animal hide.
PHOTOSYNTHESIS MACHINE	5-6	Students operate a machine to demonstrate how a plant produces sugar and oxygen from carbon dioxide, water, and light during photosynthesis.